

CPRS Presenters' Bios

Donald Williams

Donald Williams, CPRS is a Peer Wellness Coach with the Integrated Care Solutions Grant Program in Clarksville, TN. He has also served as the Middle Tennessee Peer Wellness Coach with the My Health, My Choice, My Life Initiative. While in both roles he provides individual Peer Wellness Coaching helping clients work on improving their physical health goals. He also serves as a group facilitator for evidence-based programs such as NEW-R (Nutrition, Exercise, Wellness, & Recovery), Well-Body, Tobacco Free, DSMP (Diabetes Self-Management Program), CDSMP (Chronic Disease Self-Management Program), CPSMP (Chronic Pain Self-Management Program), & WHAM (Whole Health Action Management)

Marta Hernandez

Marta Hernandez moved from Puerto Rico to the State of New Jersey at the age of 12 years old. She studied Technical Office Skills at Union County College in Cranford, New Jersey. Marta started working as a Peer Support Specialist in 2005 for the Mental Health Association in New Jersey. While she was managing Esperanza Self Help Center who was under the umbrella of the Mental Health Association in New Jersey she got involved in the Consumer Public Policy Committee which represents thousands of consumers in the State of New Jersey and spoke against BILL NO. 2760 best known as IOC (that Establishes involuntary outpatient commitment to treatment for persons in need of involuntary commitment) at the Committee Meeting of SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE in Trenton, NJ. In the year 2013, Marta made the decision of moving to Memphis, TN. She started working for Alliance Healthcare Services as a Peer Support Specialist in one of their Group Home Facilities on March 2014. She was offered a career change in August of that same year and has been supervising Turning Point Peer Support Center. She has helped a great number of members at Turning Point Peer Support Center and outside of her work environment to accomplish many of their recovery goals through

training WRAP, and other programs. Her interest for the mental wellbeing of her fellow peers has encouraged her to continue the fight against STIGMA not only in the community but also in Faith Congregations and now is working on teaching Faith Communities how to care for people with mental health conditions and how to say no to STIGMA.

Sheryl McCormick

Sheryl McCormick, CPRS, Coordinator of Peer Support and Recovery Training Services at Peninsula- A Division of Parkwest Medical Center, Covenant Health

Sheryl has worked in the peer movement since 1987 and for the past 13 years at Peninsula where she developed the first peer support training program In Tennessee; co-coordinated a grant program that resulted in hundreds of WRAP® Facilitators and over 10,000 individuals being introduced to the Wellness Recovery Action Plan; and continues to facilitate the state's CPRS trainings, after leading the first two pilot groups. Currently she is helping create a new outreach model for peer support center programs. Because of her 30 years of behavioral health advocacy and other accomplishments, Sheryl received TAMHO's 2017 Dorothea Dix Professional Service Award in recognition of her lifetime achievements, "making a significant positive difference in our state's mental health system." A resident of Knoxville, she works primarily in Blount County. Sheryl is the mother of two adult daughters, mentors and is mentored by many, and enjoys spreading the word that "Recovery is the new high!"

Katie Valentino

Katie Valentino is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and Behavioral Health Outreach Coordinator for BlueCare Tennessee, where she provides members with peer support and connects them to community resources and tools that help keep them on the path to recovery. She co-authored BlueCare's 2018 Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Recruitment Strategy for Upper East Tennessee, and is one of the specialists with unique perspectives related to opioid misuse and Substance Use Disorder serving on the academic HUB team for Project ECHO, a tele-education model that links specialist teams with primary care clinicians in

local communities. She serves on several councils and boards, including the Mental Health Association of East Tennessee, and the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Hospitality Management from Florida International University, and was recently accepted into the Human Services Master's Program at ETSU.

Dave Hodges

Dave Hodges, who helped gain funding for and started the Grundy Safe Communities Coalition in 2010, Dave Hodges is a person in long term recovery from substance abuse since September 23, 2006. He works for the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services with Project Life-Line of Tennessee. Hodges is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and has been for 6 years.

His passion for recovery advocacy work won him Peer Recovery Specialist of the Year in 2016.

His primary role is to build, grow and maintain recovery support services in his region of 10 counties in southeast Tennessee.

Dave Hodges has been actively involved in Celebrate Recovery Ministries across the state for more than 9 years. He is now helping to build a new Recovery Community Organization and Center Called G.R.A.C.E. The Grundy Recovery Alliance Community Endeavor.

Dean Graber

Dean Graber has worked with non-profits for more than 20 years in Tennessee and Texas. Most recently he's worked with men and women who are incarcerated, are re-entering from prisons and jails, and families affected by incarceration. He makes weekly CPRS visits in the Davidson County jails. He was recently hired by Centerstone to deliver peer support to adults in the Nashville area.

Monty Burks

Monty Burks, CPRS, PhD, serves as the Director of Faith Based Initiatives for the (TDMHSAS) where his role is engaging and connecting TN's faith communities with the goal of expanding addiction recovery support and mental health services across the state. He has more than 17 years' experience working with the criminal justice system in various roles and still teaches as an adjunct Professor at Motlow State Community College. He also oversees TN Project Lifeline whose primary goal is to reduce the stigma associated the addiction and mental health diagnosis.

Stephanie Guthrie

Stephanie Guthrie is the Manager of Recovery and Resiliency for United Healthcare Community Plan. She is both a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and a trainer for the CPRS program. She is also certified in WRAP®, Seeking Safety, QPR, and Mental Health First Aid. She manages CPRSs in Tennessee, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Stephanie has worked in the Behavioral Health field for approximately ten years, and is involved in recovery efforts at national, state, local, and individual levels.

Butch Odom

Butch Odom has worked for Church Health in Memphis, Tennessee since 1991, and he is currently its Director of Behavioral Health. 25 years ago, Butch had his first episode of major depression. In 2016, Butch became a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist, and he uses his long-lived experience with depression to help others live and thrive with their mental illness. He is the author of three devotionals including *Have a Blessed Day: A Year of Daily Devotions from the Church Health Center*. Butch

earned his BS degree in Biology from Bethel University in McKenzie, Tennessee and his MBA from the University of Memphis.